



Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AT

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**Town Mayor: Cllr R S Barnes**

**Town Clerk: C Caldwell**

*Our Reference:*

RTC/460/2/Mtg

*Date:*

28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

See Distribution

Dear Councillor

**Operations Committee Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

You are summoned to attend a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council Operations Committee to be held in the Langman Room, Redruth Civic Centre on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 commencing at 7pm.

The Agenda and associated papers are enclosed for your reference and information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Caldwell', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Charlotte Caldwell  
Town Clerk

Enclosures:

Agenda and associated documentation.

Distribution:

Action:

Cllr Barnes  
Cllr A Biscoe  
Cllr H Biscoe  
Cllr Broad  
Cllr Brown  
Cllr Craze  
Cllr Ellenbroek  
Cllr Garrick  
Cllr Major  
Cllr Reeve  
Cllr Skinner  
Cllr Thomas  
Cllr Tremayne

Information:

All other Councillors  
Cornwall Council Members  
Press & Public

**Redruth Town Council**  
**Operations Committee Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**  
**AGENDA**

**PART I – PUBLIC SESSION**

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda
3. Public participation session - to enable the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda
4. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024
5. To receive correspondence [None at time of publication]
6. To receive a report from the Operations Officer [report attached]
7. To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Team [report attached]
8. To receive a report on the work of the Summer Intern Admin Assistant [report attached]
9. To consider the future of the 'Meet Your Councillor' events [report attached]
10. To consider weed control within the Parish [report attached]

**PART II – PRIVATE SESSION – Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Council is invited to pass the following resolution:- That pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

11. To receive a verbal report on the subject of the Clocktower



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Tel No: 01209-210038 e-mail: admin@redruth-tc.gov.uk

**Town Mayor: Cllr R S Barnes**

**Town Clerk: Ms. C Caldwell**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council Operations Committee held at Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

Present:	Cllr S Barnes	Chair
	Cllr Brown	
	Cllr B Craze	
	Cllr C Garrick	
	Cllr R Major	
	Cllr D Reeve	
	Cllr C Skinner	
	Cllr I Thomas	
In attendance:	Ms A Hunt	Operations Officer
	Mr C Strugnell	Facilities Manager
	Ms C Coomber	Administration Manager
	Mrs J Pelham-Wales	Administration Assistant
	Mr P Allison	Local Resident

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

- 1583.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Barnes act as Chair for the meeting, in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Operations Committee [Proposed Cllr Garrick; Seconded Cllr Brown].
- 1583.2 **To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllrs A Biscoe, H Biscoe, Broad, Ellenbroek, and Tremayne.
- 1583.3 **Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this agenda**  
None were declared.
- 1583.4 **Public participation session – to enable the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda**  
Mr Allison queried the publishing of Councillors' contact details in the public domain. The Town Clerk stated that it had always been Redruth Town Council's policy to do this, but acknowledged there was a duty of care to Councillors in terms of their personal safety.

**1583.5 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

1583.5.1 RESOLVED by Majority to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as a true and accurate record of proceedings. [Proposed Cllr Thomas; Seconded Cllr Brown]. Cllrs Garrick and Skinner abstained as they had not been present at the meeting.

**1583.6 To receive correspondence**

A revised and updated version of the Redruth Town Council Data Protection Policy had been circulated as an addendum to the meeting papers.

1583.6.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that the revised and updated version of the Redruth Town Council Data Protection Policy be approved. [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Skinner].

**1583.7 To receive a report from the Operations Officer**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Operations Officer further advised that the anticipated timeframe for the requested transfer of the Strawberry Fields freehold to the Town Council remained as 18-24 months. Proposals for future provision at New Cut Public Conveniences would be brought to the Committee at an appropriate point, once funding options had been explored. No further update had been received from Cllr Donnithorne in relation to the possible devolution of Treskerby Playing Field.

The Operations Officer stated that the Community Welcome Event had been very positive and thanked Councillors for attending. A new information poster had been designed for the event, clarifying the respective responsibilities of both the Town Council and Cornwall Council. This would now remain on display on the Town Council's noticeboards and the Engagement Team would be asked to publicise it on social media. A booklet had also been compiled, incorporating key information about the Town Council. Additional copies were available for future use and for those who had been unable to attend the event. The Operations Officer thanked all officers for their hard work in the background with regard to the event and said that there had been some really engaging displays. The Operations Officer concluded her report by stating that the 'Meet your Councillor' pilot programme had now reached its end. Feedback would be provided to Councillors at an appropriate meeting of the Full Council.

The report was noted.

**1583.8 To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Team**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Facilities Manager advised that, following expert advice from a conservation and heritage expert, the Clock Tower would be closed until further notice due to concerns which needed to be addressed. This meant that the town clock would not be wound for the foreseeable future. A press release had been issued to explain the situation to local residents and businesses. A verbal update relating to the issues was given and photographs were shown by way of explanation. The Town Clerk stated that funding had been applied for, but this would inevitably take time. Councillors would be kept informed of progress.

The Facilities Team remained very busy completing routine tasking but had also been looking at how to develop the Town Council's spaces for the benefit of the community. A plan for East End Playing Field was shown to those present, with the aim being to create an open space which could be used by the community for leisure and recreational activities. Councillors asked various questions relating to the plans, which were answered by the Facilities Manager.

Finally, the Facilities Manager stated that the town floral display would be in place in time for Murdoch Day.

The remainder of the report was noted.

**1583.9 To receive a report on the work of the Administration Department**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Administration Manager advised that implementation of the new electronic HR system was going well and that a further update would be provided at the next meeting of the Staffing Committee. Members were updated on recent use of the defibrillator sited in the Civic Centre, which had demonstrated how important this facility was for the community. The Administration Manager confirmed that the device was part of the online “Circuit” listing of UK-wide defibrillators.

The remainder of the report was noted.

**1583.10 To consider strategic objectives for the Operations Team for the year 2024-2025 and receive feedback on the strategic objectives set by the Operations Committee in March 2023**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Operations Officer provided feedback in relation to progress against the strategic objectives set by the Committee during the previous Council year and thanked her team for their efforts over the previous twelve months. Members were asked to set objectives for the current year.

**1583.10.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to set the following strategic objectives for the Operations Team for the year 2024-2025:**

- Ensure that the Town Council acts in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way, whilst also meeting its climate priorities
- Strengthen partnerships with other Town and Parish Councils and community organisations, including sharing knowledge, resources and equipment
- Investigate opportunities for ‘little places’ for play equipment

[Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Skinner].

**1583.11 To receive a brief training session on GDPR and confidentiality by the Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk gave a presentation to Councillors on the importance of GDPR and confidentiality. Councillors asked a number of questions, which were answered by the Town Clerk. Members were asked to contact the Town Clerk at any point if they had further questions or concerns.

**Chair**

1. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Policy - No
- b. Financial - No
- c. Legal - No

2. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To report upon the work carried out by the Operations Officer since the last meeting of the Operations Committee and provide an update in relation to ongoing matters under the responsibility of the Operations Team.

3. **REPORT**

3.1 **Antisocial Behaviour**

In recent months, the level of antisocial behaviour has risen across many of the Town Council's sites and the town centre in general. This has included graffiti (some of it offensive), vandalism of play equipment and public toilets, fly tipping, trespass, climbing on roofs and abusive behaviour. The Operations Team continues to make good those areas under the Town Council's responsibility while reporting antisocial behaviour to the Police, ASB Officer and Cornwall Council as appropriate.

I have been discussing with the Admin Manager how the Town Council can best support individuals and the community. As a result, we are looking into bystander training to provide staff with the tools to challenge unacceptable behaviours and intervene safely, for example by calling the Police. We have also sought advice from the Neighbourhood Police Team in terms of the actions we can take to best support their own work.

3.2 **Operations Team**

Over the Summer, we have very much enjoyed being joined by two Summer Interns, one on a four-week placement based with the Facilities Team and the other on a six-week placement based in the Admin Team. Both Interns have been a pleasure to work with and have impressed with their work. We wish them both all the best in their future studies.

In a temporary change to the structure of the team, I have taken over line management of both Admin Assistants pending the upcoming organisational review. This has allowed the Admin Manager to focus to a greater extent on her HR responsibilities as we move further towards bringing this work in-house.

A recent recruitment process has led to the appointment of an additional Facilities Technician, as approved by the Staffing Committee at its last meeting. We anticipate that this additional team member will join us in mid-September and will provide further information and introductions as appropriate.

### 3.3 Redruth Civic Centre Opening Hours

As Councillors are aware, the Town Council's operating hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 1pm (Library only) on Saturday. During the week, however, the Library does not open until 9:30am. This has led to a situation where, although all teams are staffed at 9am, the public has not been able to gain access to the Civic Centre until the Library opens half an hour later. Over the Summer we have been trialling the main doors being opened by the Admin Team at 9am, with a member of the team based in the entrance area to greet and assist visitors until the Library opens. Whilst the trial is ongoing, it is apparent that there are plenty of visitors who have welcomed an earlier opening. Discussions have already commenced as to how the Library's opening hours during the week might be harmonised with those of the Town Council's other teams, without impacting negatively on service delivery. Updates on those discussions will be provided to Councillors in due course.

### 3.4 Budget

The Facilities Manager, Admin Manager and I continue to ensure that resources are used to their best effect. We are also forecasting to ensure that, where possible, work is planned for and prioritised appropriately.

### 3.5 Strawberry Fields

We have yet to hear from Cornwall Council following submission in December 2023 of the request for transfer of the freehold to the Town Council. As the site is currently on a long lease, we have been advised that the timeframe we should expect for completion is 18 to 24 months. Transfer of the freehold will give the Town Council greater autonomy over the site and enable full discussions over how best to maximise its use for the benefit of the community.

### 3.6 New Cut Public Conveniences

Members will recall that the Full Council resolved to revisit the refurbishment of the public conveniences at New Cut. Work continues to identify those facilities of most benefit to Redruth and its residents, as well as exploring possible funding opportunities. Updates and options for future provision will be provided to this Committee as appropriate.

### 3.7 Possible Devolution of Treskerby Playing Field to the Town Council

This matter remains in the hands of Cornwall Cllr Donnithorne, with Cornwall Council having been advised that they should proceed with the playscheme in order to expedite the desired outcome. Cornwall Council are aware that the Town Council will not consider entering into a memorandum of understanding for the devolution of the site until the transfer has been fully investigated, costs analysed and the Operations Committee given the opportunity to make an informed decision.

## 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that this report is noted.

Abigail Hunt  
Operations Officer

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: To update the committee on the work of Facilities Team**

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**1. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

a.	Policy	-	No
b.	Financial	-	No
c.	Legal	-	No

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To provide an update to the committee on the work of the Facilities Team

**3. REPORT**

3.1 Redruth Civic Centre

Since the last meeting, the team have been continuing with ongoing building maintenance. The lightning conductors on The Civic Centre, Market way and the Clock Tower have all been serviced and inspected.

The Mansafe inspection will be completed when the scaffolding from the roof adjoining the Buttermarket has all been removed by Jewell Construction. Once the Mansafe inspection has been completed and certification received, we will be able to investigate repair and where necessary replace guttering around Market Hall.

3.2 The Chambers

Regular inspections and weekly fire alarm tests are carried out by the Facilities Team.

3.3 Clock Tower

Following receipt of advice from an expert, the clock tower is now closed until further notice. We are currently awaiting a scaffold design for the Clock Tower from Raptor scaffolding design. This design will follow all regulations for a grade 2 listed building. We are hoping that the design should be completed in 2-3 weeks. When the design has been received and approved we shall arrange for the scaffolding to be erected.

3.4 Market Way and Market Hall

Cleaning and maintenance of the site continues. Failing guttering around market hall is causing water ingress issues to Market Hall/office and a couple of units. The Mansafe system has failed its inspection due to new regulations. Work on the guttering cannot start until a new mansafe system has been fitted. There are still ongoing cases of ASB in the public conveniences.

3.5 Redruth Town Festivals and Markets

The Facilities Team continues to assist with distribution of monthly market signage in addition to the preparation of Market Hall. The Facilities team are also assisting with Redruth Fun Day.



### 3.6 Town Centre

Street furniture and litter / dog bins are currently being cleaned and painted throughout the town. We have seen an increase in offensive graffiti connected with issues reported in the media recently. The facilities team remove anything offensive as soon as possible. Fly tipping from local businesses has increased in the parking area at St Rumons. Photos of addresses have been taken and forwarded to the relevant enforcement department at Cornwall Council. Maintenance of the floral displays continues, and we have received a lot of good feedback about this year's displays. The trial of the succulents has been a real success, and they look really good within the gardens. I am continuing to investigate greener options for the town's floral displays.

### 3.7 New Cut Car Park & Public Conveniences

The facility is now open 6 days a week 7.30am-4.30pm and checked daily. The facilities team are carrying out regular visits to unblock toilets due to age of the facility. There have been no issues with vandalism within the facility for a good while. We are hoping for a restart of discussions on the refurbishment of all public conveniences within the town.

### 3.8 Public Realm at Brewery Site

Maintenance of green spaces continues, and the Facilities team regularly have to clean up glass and graffiti from the site on our daily inspections. Reports of ASB and deterioration of surrounding buildings continue to be reported to Kresen Kernow/Cornwall Council.

### 3.9 Play Areas/Skate Park

Routine Play Area Surveys are completed regularly. Cleaning and maintenance work are carried out as required. The Facilities Team continues to undertake daily inspections, litter pick the skatepark and empty bins. There have been very few issues with litter and ASB. We are still having issues with parking across the main gate by the general public. We are also still waiting for Cormac to plant and maintain 1200 bare root native mix of trees/shrubs. These will go in various areas around the perimeter of the field. Development of green spaces wildflower beds continues at East End. I am in discussions with various councils regarding borrowing/sharing equipment to use on the site. The trees next to Copper Court will be cut back away from the building by Greens and we are awaiting the date for the work to commence.

### 3.10 Allotments

The new fence at Parc An Mengleth is regularly inspected by the Facilities team.

### 3.11 LMP (Local Maintenance Partnership) & Green Spaces

New LMP contract has commenced. First cuts have been completed; second cuts will start in September.

### 3.12 Facilities Department

We have appointed a new Facilities Technician who will be commencing employment in the middle of September.

The team are currently maintaining all areas and maintaining/painting street furniture and bus shelters.

George Coombs starts his horticultural course in September.

I enjoyed a visit to Camborne Town Council facilities department it was a really interesting meeting, and we realised that as a council the facility departments have the same issues and deal with them in a similar way. Discussions were had regarding weed control, resulting in an agreement for us to trial their Foamstream machine on a couple of our sites soon. We are also investigating options for future weed control around Redruth. I am hoping to will organise another visit for the team to share and discuss work practice ideas.

I shall be looking to build the first Community planters after Pasty Festival. Despite contacting various local companies, we had no luck obtaining materials for the planters we are now hoping to obtain pallets donated by local businesses on various industrial estates which we will use to make the planters.

I recently visited the ARB (Area Resource Base) at Redruth school to see if there was anything we can do to assist with their outside space. Discussions are ongoing with various parties including Redruth Charity Trust and Keir to create a space for the children.

The agapanthus has been planted at Lower Mount Ambrose. The planting project with Treleigh school was very successful and we hope to do more with the school and other schools in the future.

Various funding options are currently being investigated for the development project at East End.

The whole team are in the process of completing their food hygiene training to help support the engagement team at the pasty festival. Manual handling training is also scheduled in for 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### 3.13 Health and Safety

Reviews of PPE provision and training needs are ongoing with the Admin/HR manager.

## **4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended the report be noted.

**Chris Strugnell**  
**Facilities Manager**

# REDRUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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## REPORT FOR: Meeting of the Operations Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

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### SUBJECT OF REPORT: To provide an update on the work of the Summer Intern Admin Assistant

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#### 1 **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Policy - No
- b. Financial - No
- c. Legal - No

#### 2 **REPORT**

##### 2.1 Briefing on my Internship

During my time as a Summer Intern at Redruth Town Council, I have participated in a variety of rewarding tasks. I have been entrusted with responsibilities such as organising calendars and meetings, developing proposals, gaining insight into financial responsibilities, and assisting with event coordination for the engagement committee. I am fully committed to my internship and look forward to my shifts, eager to deepen my understanding of local government and its operations.

Through my internship, I have gained a deeper understanding of the essential functions within the town council that contribute to its smooth operation. I have learned how to log financial records with Helen, observing the precision and efficiency required for accurate files within the ledger. From Jo, Kelly, Abi, and Claire, I have acquired insights into the significant effort involved in organizing meetings, handling calls, documenting minutes, preparing reports, updating the calendar, and ensuring that all office members are well supported, which has facilitated my continuous learning and skill development. Additionally, I have come to appreciate the dedication of the engagement team towards their community, as they meticulously organise town events, create guides to promote understanding of Redruth Town Council, and assist me in developing a "Youth's Guide to Redruth" with their extensive knowledge of the area. This combined dedication has provided me with valuable insight into the operations of a town council and offered me an exceptional education in local government that I previously lacked, and I am incredibly thankful to everyone who has assisted me during my time here.

My favourite aspect of my internship has been the time spent with Charlotte from the Town Council and the opportunity to participate in various meetings. Charlotte has significantly enhanced my understanding by assigning me challenging tasks and offering her support whenever needed, demonstrating her belief in my potential and her desire to help me grow. I particularly enjoyed our walk along the leats with her, Cllr Barnes, and Cllr Major, during which we discussed the waste issue and explored potential solutions. Although it may seem like a minor task, it illuminated for me the intricate elements of decision-making within the community that often go unnoticed, as well as the understanding of the policies that differentiate Cornwall Council from local town councils, which we must navigate to instigate change. Additionally, my participation in meetings such as the Community Centre blueprints proposal and RJ Working's commitment to promoting mental health discussions further

revealed the often-overlooked yet significant roles of Redruth Town Council in benefiting the community. I would also like to express my gratitude to Cllr Barnes and Cllr Ellenbroek for meeting with me and broadening my understanding of their responsibilities, as well as for their remarkable dedication to their roles within the Town Council and Cornwall Council.

## 2.2 Community Action Event Proposal

As a part of my time here at Redruth Town Council, I have written a proposal under Abigail Hunt's guidance for a Community Action Event which I would love to present to you all at a later date.

## 3 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that this report is noted.

Emily Stephens  
Summer Admin Assistant Intern

**REPORT FOR: Meeting of the Operations Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

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**SUBJECT OF REPORT: To consider the future of the Meet Your Councillor events**

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1. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- |    |           |   |    |
|----|-----------|---|----|
| a. | Policy    | - | No |
| b. | Financial | - | No |
| c. | Legal     | - | No |

2. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To provide feedback on the Meet Your Councillor events held during the Council year 2023-24 and consider the future of these events.

3. **REPORT**

3.1 **Background**

In June 2024, the future of the Meet Your Councillor events was placed on the Agenda for consideration by the Full Council. Members will recall that the matter was subsequently referred to the Operations Committee for a decision, with Councillors asked by the Mayor to send their ideas to the Operations Officer prior to the next meeting of this Committee. The information presented to the Full Council is set out below for ease of reference.

In March 2023, Councillors approved the introduction of monthly 'Meet Your Councillor' events. The aim was to facilitate direct access between local residents and their elected representatives, providing an opportunity to raise any concerns or provide feedback.

It was hoped that the events would enable:

- Councillors to be more visible to their electorate and understand those issues important to residents of the Parish;
- The Town Council to communicate better its role in the community, assist in promoting its work and vision for the parish and in achieving its mission of being at the heart of the community;
- Increased partnership-working;
- Ongoing community consultation to understand the priorities of residents and businesses.

It was agreed that the Engagement Team would take responsibility for a campaign to advertise the events and ensure that the public were aware of the opportunity to attend.

3.2 **Feedback**

Between May 2023 and April 2024, twelve Meet Your Councillor events were scheduled. A rota for the year was agreed, with each Councillor given notice of the dates they were due to attend well in advance. Three Councillors were scheduled to be present at each session, with no Councillor being asked to attend more than three events.

The events were primarily scheduled for the third Saturday of each month, allowing those present to report back to Full Council shortly afterwards, sharing information with colleagues and making proposals for action where appropriate under a standing item on the Agenda.

Three sessions were subsequently cancelled due to lack of Councillor availability. Seven events went ahead with two Councillors present and there was one Councillor in attendance for the remaining two events.

An information pack was produced by officers to assist Councillors in promoting the work of the Town Council, clarify responsibilities and assist Councillors to correctly signpost residents to the support available to them.

It is acknowledged that the events could have been better advertised. There were also some concerns raised by the Library Team about the impact of the sessions on their activities. Engagement with the electorate was at its highest when the sessions were held on the day of a town festival and Councillors were based outside on Fore Street.

All events took place either in the Civic Centre or at a stall on Fore Street. No ad-hoc venues were trialled, although it is still believed that use of other community spaces could enable engagement with a different audience.

It had been anticipated that partner organisations and individuals could be invited to attend the Meet Your Councillor events, either on a regular basis, or ad-hoc to address specific issues. This did not take place, with the focus instead on establishing the events and incorporating feedback.

### 3.3 Meeting of the Full Council in June 2024

While there was general support expressed for a continuation of these events in some form, there was no overall consensus on how best to achieve this. Suggestions and feedback included:

- keeping the number of Councillors per session at three and indicating those scheduled to attend by adding information to the Councillor noticeboard located outside the Langman Room stating "I will be here next month" throughout the month leading up to the event.
- creating an Enquiry Box, allowing local residents to submit their enquiries to Councillors in writing, anonymously if so desired.
- keeping the event at once per month but holding it on a variety of different days of the week and at a variety of locations
- tying the event in with the town festivals and events guarantees an audience, however some Councillors have other commitments on those days
- creating a panel of experts
- providing tea and biscuits to those attending
- Councillors engaging more with events put on by others, such as Redruth School careers activities

## 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In light of the feedback above, it is recommended that:

- (i) Meet Your Councillor events are scheduled and well-advertised on a quarterly basis over the upcoming twelve months;
- (ii) Each event is attended by three or four Councillors, meaning that no Member will be expected to attend more than one event over the course of the year;
- (iii) An Enquiry Box is created and located in the Civic Centre entrance area, with written enquiries considered at each Meet Your Councillor event and responses provided

- directly to the individual who has submitted the enquiry (if contact details have been provided), as well as being made publicly available, where appropriate;
- (iv) Councillors provide the Operations Officer with suggestions of any outside parties they would like to be invited to the events to respond to specific questions and concerns;
  - (v) Councillors advise the Operations Officer by the end of September of their general availability over the next twelve months, in order that a proposed rota can be drafted, to include a trialling of different days and times of the week;
  - (vi) The Engagement Officer be asked to identify opportunities for greater community interaction by Councillors;
  - (vii) Councillors continue to be encouraged to attend the town festivals in support of Redruth, the Town Council and its officers.

Abigail Hunt  
Operations Officer

1. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Policy - No
- b. Financial - No
- c. Legal - No

2. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To report upon the current position in relation to weed control within the Parish and consider options for the future.

3. **REPORT**

3.1 Current position

The Redruth Town Council Facilities Team does not use weedkiller on any of the areas it maintains.

The Town Council does, however, use a contractor to treat approximately 45 kilometres (28 miles) of roads within the Parish, following responsibility for weed treatment along public highways being passed to town and parish councils by Cornwall Council. The contract is for two applications per year: once in April/May and again in August/September.

3.2 Previous discussions

The spraying of weeds was last discussed in depth at a meeting of the Amenities Committee in November 2021, although it has since been raised on several occasions. At that meeting, the former Town Clerk advised that time and efficacy of treatment needed to be considered and that, although there were alternatives on the market, none were considered to do the job as well. Councillors also stated that visiting dignitaries had often commented on how well looked after the Parish appeared to be. It was resolved to continue with current policy but, with climate change and environmental concerns in mind, monitor alternative options and be prepared to move to an alternative solution as soon as operationally viable to do so.

3.3 Since 2021

The Facilities Team has continued to monitor alternative treatments available on the market and liaise with other town and parish councils to obtain feedback on their weed control policies. Whilst it is acknowledged that this is an area which is continually developing, it is noted that one Council which had moved to manual removal of weeds in 2019 has opted to reintroduce glyphosate this year (albeit in a more controlled application) in order to address safety, accessibility and infrastructure concerns, with the problem deemed to be "out of control".



Since then, the Council's Climate Action group has been re-established and we are acutely aware of the environmental implications of weed killing activity.

The following specific actions have been taken by the Operations Team in response to concerns:

- conversations have taken place with a fellow Council to negotiate the loan of their equipment (which has received largely positive feedback), with a localised trial planned to monitor the effect of controlled application
- the Facilities Manager has made contact with the Town Council's current contractor to enquire whether there are any services offered by them which do not involve the use of weed spray.
- research has been carried out into community projects which focus on people volunteering in support of their local environment
- consideration is being given to which areas should be treated as we move forward.

As a team, we will continue to explore any viable alternatives which become available. The aim is to balance safety and accessibility with protection of biodiversity. The overarching goal of eradicating the use of glyphosate completely is acknowledged and at the forefront of discussions at all times. We hope to bring forward recommendations to a future Operations Committee, once the trial of one alternative has been fully evaluated.

#### 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councillors are asked to confirm their position that viable alternatives to weed spraying should be monitored, with the Town Council to move to an alternative solution as soon as operationally viable to do so.

Abigail Hunt  
Operations Officer

Chris Strugnell  
Facilities Manager