

LISKEARD TOWN VISION

April 2025



LISKEARD COUNCIL
WORKING FOR YOU



FOREWORD

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Liskeard's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was approved in 2018 and received 91.8% support in the referendum. It identified a number of projects and actions to help improve the town, and many of these have been completed, or are underway. The level of community support for the NDP has been a key factor in delivering these projects.

Since the NDP Liskeard has of course continued to face a range of challenges, including the impact of the Covid pandemic. All towns have needed to evolve and adapt to the changes in the way we all live, work, shop and study and what we now expect from our town centres. This therefore seemed a suitable time to review progress, to understand local priorities and where appropriate to 'refresh' the NDP objectives and refine the Vision and direction for Liskeard.

Liskeard Town Council, (with funding support from the Cornwall Council Town Accelerator Fund) appointed HemingwayDesign to help us undertake this review, using their wider national expertise in town centre regeneration to complement local people's understanding of Liskeard. To meet funding requirements the process has been undertaken in only 16 weeks, from commissioning on 19th November 2024, stakeholder meetings in December and January, community and student workshops in February and a report in March.

We wish to thank all those who participated in the workshops and hope you can see how your input has helped shape this document and its recommendations. Thank you also to everybody who provided feedback on the draft report and responded to the survey.



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KEY ISSUES FACING LISKEARD

Over 100 people attended the community workshop on 17th February 2025. All those attending were asked to identify the biggest issues they felt are currently facing Liskeard.

The most common issues are shown below: Any Vision and Action Plan for Liskeard must therefore focus on addressing these issues.

MATCHING INFRASTRUCTURE TO POPULATION GROWTH – PARTICULARLY HEALTH SERVICES BUT ALSO GREEN SPACE, SPORTS FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE NEED FOR HIGH QUALITY LOCAL JOBS, TO MATCH THE GROWTH IN POPULATION



THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN CENTRE AND THE IMPACT ON ITS ATTRACTIVENESS AS A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

AND OVERALL, THE IMPACT THAT ALL THESE FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE ON THE VIBRANCY OF LISKEARD TOWN CENTRE.

LISKEARD'S UNIQUE QUALITIES

Research indicates that towns with a strong sense of identity and connection with their local communities were the ones that 'bounced back' quicker following the impact of the Covid pandemic. It is important therefore that there is consensus on what we think makes Liskeard different, and on the sort of town we want Liskeard to be in the future.

A full 'SWOT' analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) for Liskeard was therefore presented at the workshop. Those attending the Community Workshop were also asked to list the factors that make Liskeard 'different' from other places.

It is easy to focus on physical characteristics of a town and sometimes difficult to define the social and personal qualities that make it different. But successful towns are often created by local communities which possess an independent 'attitude' and a strong sense of social 'purpose'. We believe these qualities are already present in Liskeard, and across Cornwall, and that any Vision for the town should build on this, as well as its distinctive Cornish heritage and strategic location.

THE KEY RESPONSES WERE:

STRATEGIC LOCATION

Liskeard's position between Bodmin Moor and the Coast means it can act as a base for visitors to the area. Its position as a gateway to Cornwall means it can attract businesses looking to serve Cornwall and Devon.

HERITAGE

The mining history and architectural quality of the buildings in the town centre makes Liskeard an attractive place to live and visit.

COMMUNITY

Residents identified Liskeard's strong sense of community as a key strength.



LISKEARD STRENGTHS

- Historic environment and concentration of listed buildings
- Compact and 'walkable' town centre
- Independent shops
- Strong community spirit
- Accessibility by rail
- Industrial estates and reasonably strong employment demand
- Investment in Workshed and small business growth
- Library / Real Ideas
- School/Community College close to town centre
- Leisure Centre and Sports Club cluster
- Access to Plymouth – jobs, shops, nightlife, hospital, workforce
- Community Hospital
- Housing growth
- Residents living within walking distance of town centre
- Strategic location serving Cornwall and Devon
- Strategic location between coast and Bodmin Moor
- Looe Rail Link
- Agricultural setting and businesses

LISKEARD WEAKNESSES

- Lack of clear external identity
- Low tourist base
- Minimal evening activity and entertainment
- Low number of bars and restaurants
- Fore Street hidden from visitors
- Through traffic impacts environment on Barras Street/The Parade
- Lack of visitor accommodation
- Difficult topography for walking and cycling
- Difficult crossing points for shoppers in town centre
- 'Scruffy' physical environment
- Prominent vacant shop units
- Prominent blank walls and edges
- Lack of green space in the town centre
- Relative lack of public space
- Sloping streets limit opportunities for outdoor eating and drinking
- Cattle market (and market) still relatively isolated
- Some car parks with poor access to shopping area
- Impact of cars parked (or waiting) in Bay Tree Hill
- Limited opportunities for young people
- No clear focal group for coordination of independent businesses
- Relatively poor digital promotion of town

LISKEARD OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential sustainable location for further housing growth (to support town centre)
- Potential to build on success of Workshed and attract start up businesses
- Capitalise on recent investment from 'purpose led' businesses (Boost, Wildanet)
- Broadband expansion makes Cornwall more accessible for businesses
- Digital expertise available through Wildanet
- Refurbishment of Guildhall
- Investment in walking and cycling
- Investment in rail services
- Investment in community and leisure facilities from housing growth
- Bus hub provides opportunity to improve public realm
- Interesting retailers & historic environment on Fore St
- Proximity to Bodmin Moor, Dark Skies, World Heritage Site, & Cornwall National Landscape
- Walking, cycling and rail links to Looe
- Tourism investment in surrounding areas (eg Story of Emily)
- Relative affordability of housing
- Creating connections between students & businesses
- Growing arts & craft community & new cultural collective

LISKEARD THREATS

- Housing growth not being matched by employment growth
- New residents not being connected (physically or psychologically) to town centre
- Difficult viability of employment growth
- Healthcare expansion not matching housing growth
- Not integrating Cattle Market with the rest of the town centre
- Uncertainty over investment in community and sports facilities
- Difficulty in delivering higher value housing
- Not investing in public realm and historic environment
- Maintenance costs for occupiers of listed buildings
- General trading environment for retailers
- Continued loss of banks on Barras Street
- No obvious 'easy in' premises available now for start up businesses
- Closing of funding support streams for Cornish towns
- Not establishing a clear identity in a competitive visitor market
- Not embracing the digital world
- Absent commercial/retail property owners

A VISION FOR LISKEARD

An agreed Vision of Liskeard in the future is essential to guide future development. All those attending the workshop were asked to provide three words to describe the 'type of town they wanted Liskeard to be by 2030'.

The results can be grouped under the following 'themes', all of which contribute to creating a successful town:

SUCCESSFUL

People want Liskeard to grow and thrive economically. They want it to be a vibrant, busy, flourishing and prosperous destination. They want it to be a place of opportunity.

INCLUSIVE

People want Liskeard to be a welcoming and inviting place for all people to spend time. They want it to be friendly, compassionate, accessible, attractive, clean and safe.

DISTINCTIVE

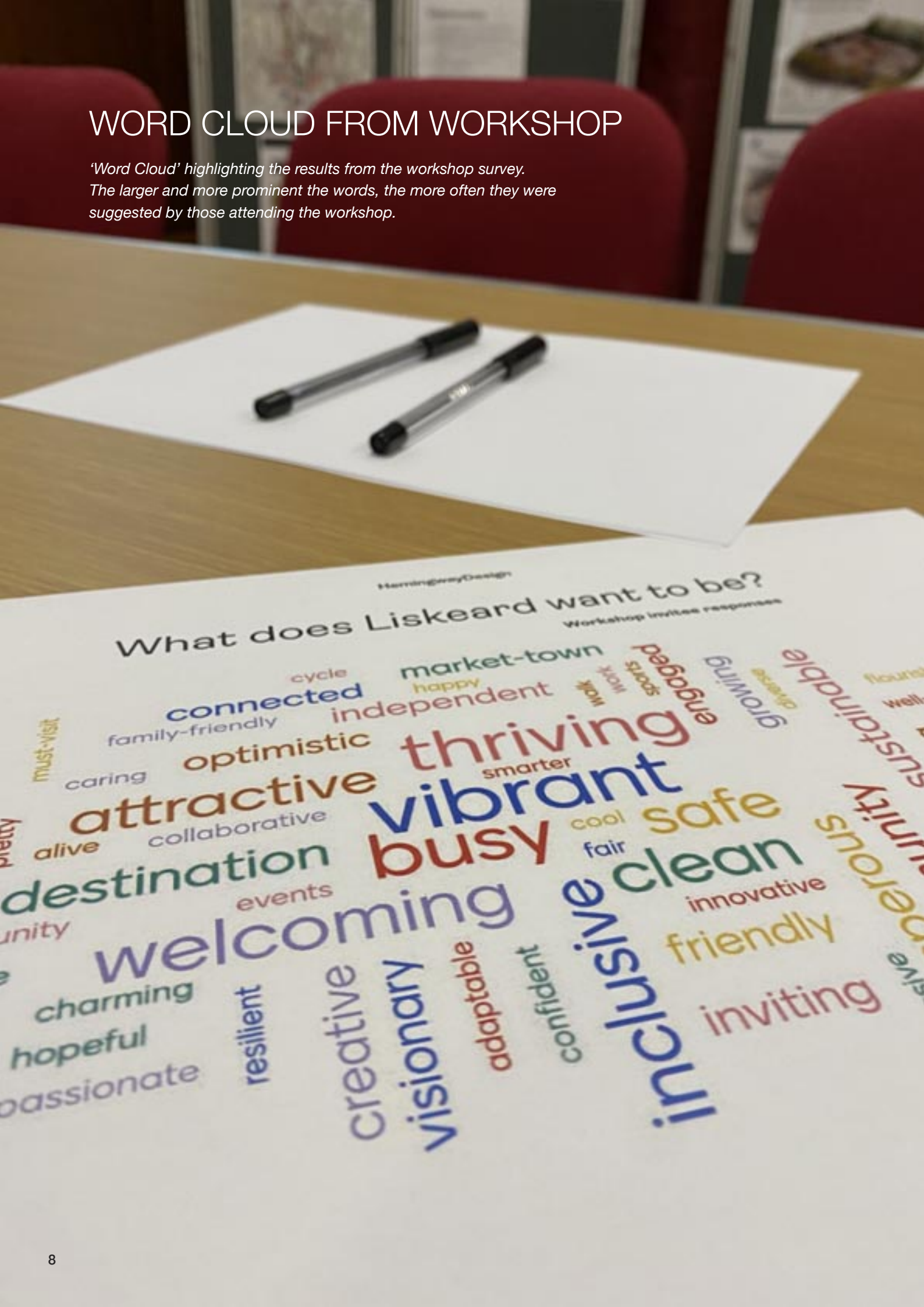
People want Liskeard to emphasise its unique character and points of difference. They want it to be an interesting, independent, creative, visionary, sustainable market town. They want Liskeard to have a strong sense of its own identity.

OPTIMISTIC

People want to feel a sense of connection with their town. People want to be confident in its future knowing that their voices are heard. They want to be part of a happy, hopeful, engaged, community that can influence and shape its future.

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The larger and more prominent the words, the more often they were suggested by those attending the workshop.



CORE VALUES FOR LISKEARD

The core themes and objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) remain relevant and continue to underpin the Vision for Liskeard.

The NDP includes a fifth objective of 'sustainability' which, following the workshop and review process, we propose to rephrase. The updated five objectives now read as follows:

- ***'A place to work and learn'***
- ***'A place to live'***
- ***'A place to meet, to shop and do business'***
- ***'A place to relax and enjoy'***
- ***'A place with purpose'***

This revised fifth objective includes sustainability, but also incorporates some of the wider trends and actions which characterise successful towns. It reflects the fact that increasing numbers of visitors to Cornwall are looking for experiences which are local and 'authentic', and which support the local economy as well as minimising impact on the environment. Shoppers are increasingly looking for town centres which prioritise independent, ethical businesses, and the town centres which are thriving are those which promote and support such traders and businesses which emphasise 'purpose' are looking to locate in towns which support their principles and reinforce their 'brand'.

Liskeard can take pride in having a cluster of 'ethical' organisations in its town centre which have a strong sense of purpose. These include Real Ideas (RIO), Wildanet and Boost Innovations. A key element of Liskeard's strategy should be to work with those organisations to understand how 'purpose' can be integrated into projects and activities across Liskeard and similar forward-thinking businesses can be attracted to the town.

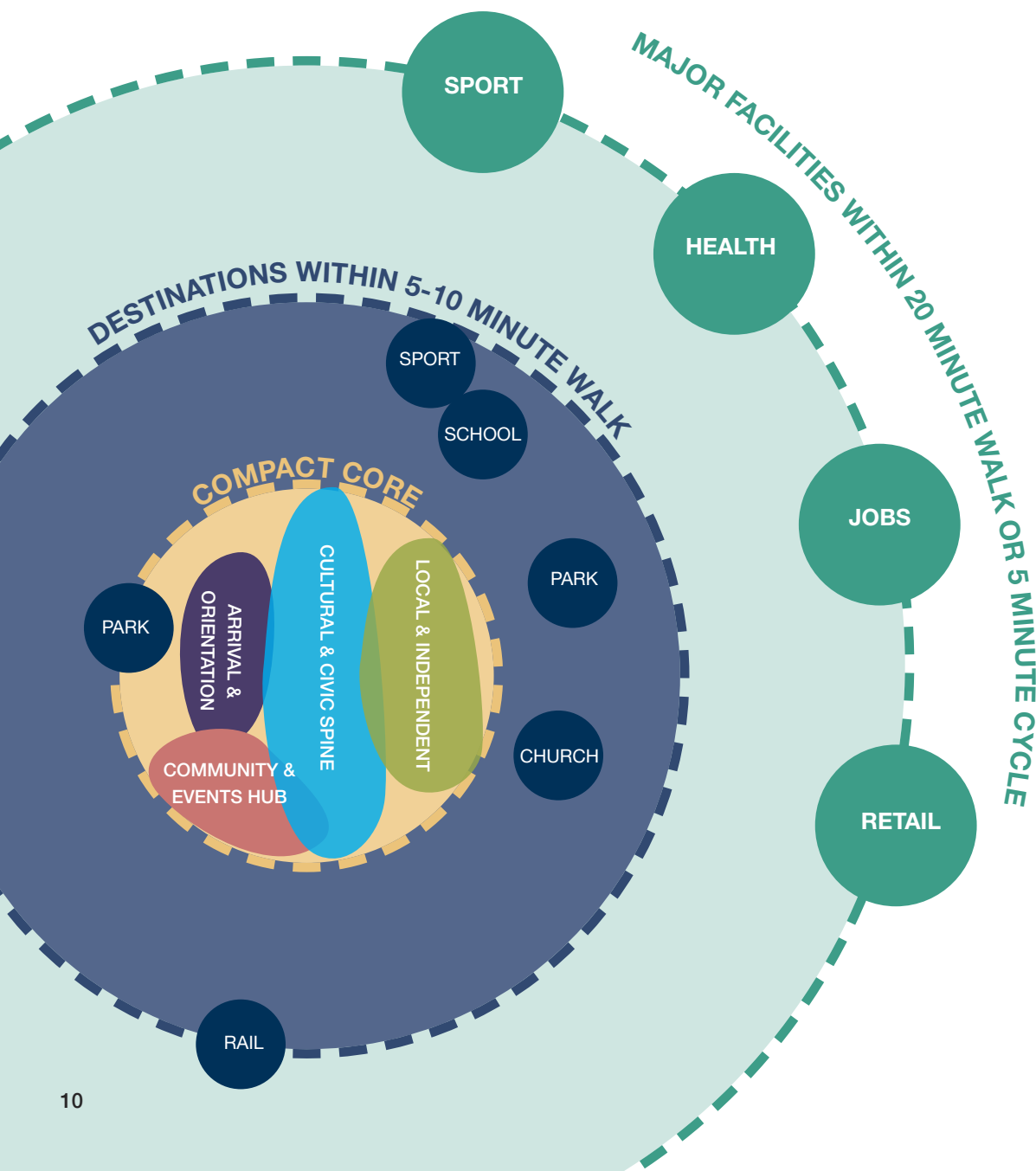


A COORDINATED PLAN FOR LISKEARD

A key message from the Community Workshop was that people want to see a 'coordinated' strategy for Liskeard. This coordination needs to come from a clear understanding of:

- The Vision and Values for Liskeard.
- How different areas of the town combine to help deliver this Vision.
- How individual projects combine to deliver this Vision.
- How the people of Liskeard will work together to deliver those projects.

The Diagram below illustrates how the different aspects and physical areas of Liskeard combine to create a compact, sustainable, walkable market town capable of meeting the needs of the town and the rural areas that rely on it for jobs, shops and services. It is of course a simplified representation, but is intended to highlight how each area has a complementary role to play in delivering the Vision for Liskeard.



AN ACTION PLAN FOR LISKEARD

A series of projects and actions are proposed to improve Liskeard. Some projects are new and have emerged from the recent stakeholder engagement and community workshop. Some were contained in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) but have been slightly refined through this recent vision. Some projects are unchanged from the NDP but are included for completeness.

The projects are considered under the following headings:

- Barras Street & The Parade
- Fore Street & Market Street
- Pike Street & Bay Tree Hill
- Heritage & Wayfinding
- Empty & Neglected Buildings
- Cattle Market
- Places to Work
- Liskeard School & Students
- Evening Activity
- Tourism & Accommodation
- Markets & Events
- Parks & Green Spaces
- Sports Pitches
- Places to Live
- Embracing Digital



Barras Street & The Parade

This is the grandest street in Liskeard and our 'civic' heart. It provides a 'shop window' for the town centre due to the traffic that passes through it and provides connections to all our important shopping streets, visitor attractions and community facilities. It should showcase what Liskeard has to offer, the architectural quality, The Library, Stuart House, the Fountain and civic spaces.

The provision of the bus interchange at the Cattle Market, and the introduction of a 20mph zone through the town centre provides an opportunity to celebrate Barras Street, to reduce traffic speeds, widen pavements, improve pedestrian crossings, create more space for people and events and enhance the setting of our historic buildings. The opening of Boost Innovations (in the empty Barclays building) gives us a great example of how former banks can be repurposed. We want to see more innovations like this come forward.

As part of the proposals for the Bus Interchange, we will work with Cornwall Council, local residents and businesses to develop a plan for Barras Street / The Parade which complements the proposals within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This plan will focus on identifying opportunities to deliver the following:

- Relocating bus laybys to widen pavements
- Redesign of the Dean Street/Barras Street junction to remove railings and create a more pedestrian friendly junction
- Redesign to improve pedestrian connections from Barras Place to Pike Street
- Redesign of public spaces to celebrate the Fountain
- Possible acquisition (and removal) of the single storey building to the right of Webb's to improve setting of Webb's House and create more space for markets and events
- Vacant building strategy for key properties, including The Fountain Inn and Webb's House (ground floor).



Fore Street & Market Street

Fore Street is Liskeard's premier shopping street. Together with Pike Street it is home to many of our most interesting independent traders.

Research highlights that towns that 'keep it local' are outperforming others. Whilst national retailers are taking less space, independent retailers are taking more space. And post-Covid surveys consistently highlight that residents and visitors want more independent businesses in their town centres, providing an experience that they can't get on a retail park or on the internet.

The lack of visibility, and the poor 'gateways' to Fore Street are however a major issue. We want to draw visitors towards Fore Street and make them more aware of what it has to offer. We believe one way to help achieve this is to improve the spaces at either end of Fore Street so that the quality of the street extends into Pike Street and Bay Tree Hill, making it more visible to visitors.

We would like to create a more distinctive 'space' where Fore Street, Pike Street and Market Street meet, celebrating the local retailers and cafes that cluster here, creating a gateway to Fore Street. This independent character could be reinforced by an appropriate 'mural' on the prominent blank elevation of the Fat Frog. A living (green) wall has also been suggested here.

These improvements can reinforce the refurbishment of the Guildhall, mark the presence of the historic Well, and help to draw visitors from The Parade, past the museum to this important part of Liskeard.

At the Bay Tree Hill end, we would like to see the quality of Fore Street extend across to 'The Emporium' and Indoor Market. This is an important and highly visible building at the end of Fore Street and should be a priority for shopfront improvement grants. A coordinated scheme to improve the blank sides of Superdrug, Poundland and the former M&Co buildings would also help to draw visitors down to Fore Street.

Occupying the large and prominent former M&Co building is of course a priority for any grant funding available via the High Street Rental Auctions Fund (or other sources), and the vacant unit adjacent to HE Goldsworthy also needs to be addressed.



Pike Street & Bay Tree Hill

These are important independent shopping streets but also key pedestrian routes to Fore Street from Barras Street, The Cattle Market and from Westbourne car park. We want to encourage as many people as possible to walk down these streets and also to visit Fore Street. This means making the streets as attractive as possible to pedestrians, creating activity and interest along these streets to help overcome the deterrence that is created by the relatively steep slope.

The refurbishment of the Guildhall will create a strong visitor destination at the bottom of Pike Street and the creation of the new 'spaces' noted above will also help draw visitors towards Fore Street. Around £1.2m of funding is still needed to complete the Guildhall refurbishment which remains a priority project for Liskeard.

It was however suggested at the Community Workshop that parts of Bay Tree Hill could benefit from occasional pedestrianisation. This could potentially give more space for shops and cafes to 'spill out' into the street, creating more activity and interest, particularly for events.

We would therefore support the idea of working with the traders on Bay Tree Hill and Pike Street to assess whether occasional removal of traffic from these streets would bring economic benefit to those businesses. Other town centres (such as Penzance) have tested such ideas through use of temporary street closures for events, and 'Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders'. This allows any changes to be practically tested, and the implications understood, before any significant investment is made in permanent changes. As part of such changes the design of temporary parklets can also assist in creating flat areas for seating outside cafes to address the problems created by the sloping street.



Heritage & Wayfinding

Wayfinding means helping people, particularly those unfamiliar with a place, to find their way around it. This is important to all town centres, but particularly to Liskeard as many of its important destinations are relatively hidden.

It is important to remember that wayfinding is about more than just signage. It is about creating points of activity and visual interest along routes to encourage visitors to move around the town. It is about making those routes safe, convenient and attractive for pedestrians and cyclists to use. It is also essential that the 'end points' (whether it be streets, shops, markets, historic buildings or green spaces) are worth the journey.

Improvements have recently been undertaken to many of our historic buildings, including the Guildhall, Library, Public Hall and St Martin's Church, and it is important therefore that visitors are made aware of these attractions and are able to find them. It is also important that visitors are able to locate independent businesses (particularly on Fore Street and Market Place), that historic features such as The Well and The Fountain are accessible and attractive and that events and markets within the Cattle Market are easy to locate. A coordinated wayfinding strategy is therefore essential for Liskeard.

As part of the Local Cycling Walking & Infrastructure Plan improvements, we will therefore continue to work with Cornwall Council to secure funding for a complementary wayfinding strategy. This strategy should seek to achieve the following key objectives:

- To guide visitors to the town centre attractions from key arrival points, particularly from the railway station, bus stops and car parks,
- To support the routes and attractions identified on the Heritage Trail Map,
- To create visible and attractive routes to Fore Street via Barras Street, Pike Street and Bay Tree Hill to support independent businesses,
- To create visible and attractive routes to the attractions and green spaces close to the town centre, such as St Martin's Church, Castle Park and Westbourne Gardens,
- To integrate physical wayfinding with the digital promotion of Liskeard.



Empty & Neglected Buildings

Liskeard town centre has a number of vacant properties many of which are in prominent locations and have a negative impact on the town centre. The location of key empty units has a particular impact on Fore Street and important historic buildings are vacant on Barras Street / The Parade.

The recently announced 'High Street Rental Auctions Fund' assists towns in preparing a register of vacant buildings, their ownerships and assisting with refurbishment costs where there is a high concentration of empty units. It is considered that Liskeard, due to the concentration of vacant buildings on key streets, is likely to meet the criteria for accessing this funding or accessing similar funds as they become available.

We will therefore work with Cornwall Council to prepare a register of vacant properties and to identify the priorities for possible funding applications. Particular consideration could be given to the former M&Co unit and the historic Fountain pub which are both particularly prominent and have a major impact on Fore Street, Bay Tree Hill, Barras Street and The Parade.

Where short term 'pop-up' uses are appropriate we will encourage Cornwall Council to consider waiving business rates to stimulate investment from landlords and occupiers. We will also identify opportunities to access the Good Growth Fund to support businesses that benefit the tourism economy and creative industries, (as was done with the Arts & Co-working Hub in Saltash).

<https://www.ciosgrowthhub.com/news/new-arts-co-work-hub-opens-in-saltash>

A shopfront improvement scheme was part of the original Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Although previous grant funding sources have now closed, we will continue to work with Cornwall Council to investigate opportunities to support independent businesses to improve their shopfronts as has happened recently in Newquay and Falmouth.



Cattle Market

The Workshed is a major success story for Liskeard and an important facility in our town centre. The flexible desk space is busy and the office units are likely to be fully occupied soon (at the time of writing).

It is essential for the long term success of the Cattle Market regeneration that the benefits of the investment made in facilities such as The Workshed are maximised.

The new units being developed opposite the Workshed will help bring more life to the Cattle Market and make it even more attractive to new businesses. They will also bring activity outside 'traditional' working hours of 9-5 Monday to Friday.

The neighbouring community owned and managed Liskerrett Community and Arts Centre is also home to small businesses and some of the town's growing cultural and creative community and sees over 800 people a week for a wide range of activities during both the daytime and the evening, while also supporting and contributing to other town events and projects. It is a valued asset to retain and improve.

Once construction at the Cattle Market is complete, we will work with Cornwall Council, the managers of the Workshed, Liskerrett and other groups to maximise use of this important new space for festivals, events, markets and any other activities that can bring life and visitors to the town centre. We will also look to enhance the quality of the wayfinding and public realm along the pedestrian routes connecting the Cattle Market and Liskerrett to the rest of the town centre to ensure that the events and markets are easy for visitors to find and to visit.



Places to Work

More high-quality jobs is a long standing priority for Liskeard. Economic research shows that towns with a good level of high-quality jobs within walking distance of the town centre have a stronger and more resilient High Street.

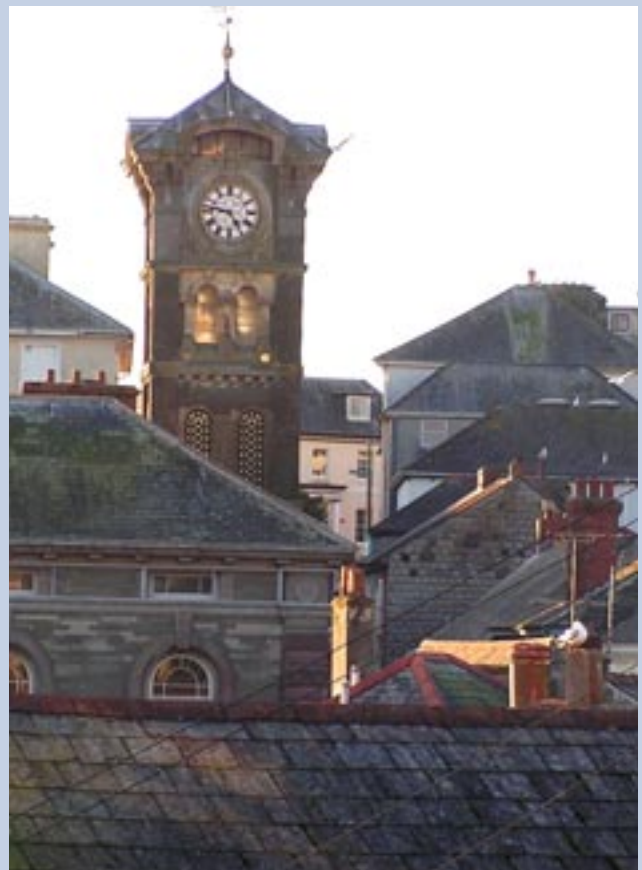
Liskeard is a popular location for businesses looking to serve Devon and Cornwall and we know there is demand to build new employment space. Despite this, the Cornwall Town Vitality Index shows that levels of business growth in Liskeard are one of the weakest in Cornwall.

We will therefore continue to work with Cornwall Council to secure the development of additional industrial land on the edge of Liskeard, and to ensure that future housing growth is matched by the provision of new employment land.

In the town centre there is hot-desking space available at the library and we will look to facilitate the provision of additional office space for smaller and for start-up businesses. The Workshed has been successful, and we believe there is demand for further space, particularly for those businesses looking for shorter and more flexible leases.

We will use the expertise of those involved in delivering the Workshed to identify how suitable premises can be made available in the town centre, ideally through the repurposing of vacant buildings in Barras Street and elsewhere.

We will work with Cornwall Council to investigate potential funding opportunities (eg through Good Growth Fund) and the providers of flexible workspace facilities elsewhere in Cornwall (such as WorkBox in Truro and Penzance). We will also work with existing local employers (such as Wildanet) to understand how Liskeard town centre can be made more attractive to new businesses.



Liskeard School & Students

Liskeard is fortunate to have the School & Community College within a 5-minute walk of the town centre. Feedback from the School Council workshop does however indicate that we need to work harder to make the students, and young people, feel welcome in the town centre and involved in its future. We will therefore work harder to engage with the School Council and ensure that the views of young people inform the projects that take place in the town centre.

When asked what type of town they wished Liskeard to be, the key responses were for it to be safe, welcoming and sociable, to be clean, to have more clubs and be 'sporty'. In terms of travel the top priorities were improved bus services and safer routes for walking.

The priority projects for the students were;

- More places to eat and drink
- Better parks and green spaces
- More things to do in the evening
- More events and better markets
- More places to 'hang out' with friends

We will engage with the school council (and the Town Youth Council facilitated by Young People Cornwall) to understand how we can create spaces in the town centre in which they feel more comfortable, and how we can make our parks and green spaces feel safer. We will also work to identify potential 'pop-up' cafes and other ideas for vacant premises that would be particularly attractive to younger people.

The students also identified the opportunity to work, whilst studying, as a priority for them. This is important if we are to develop the business skills of our students and encourage them to see Liskeard as a place that offers them a future. We will therefore work with the school, the proposed Job Centre within the Service Hub and with local employers to create appropriate job and training opportunities for young people.



Evening Activity

We want to help more local businesses open in the evening. Local employers have told us that this is critical to helping bring more jobs to the town centre, and it is also essential if we want to attract more visitors to stay in Liskeard and use it as a base for tourism.

Liskeard has some great independent cafes and restaurants, but very few open regularly in the evening. Without a town centre manager or similar to coordinate evening opening it can be difficult for individual small businesses to justify extending their hours. We would therefore like to support these traders, and seek to trial coordinated evening openings to coincide with evening openings at the Library or Public Hall, with markets or other evening events at times when visitor numbers are likely to be greater.

We will also work with the Workshed to investigate how the canopy areas and wider public realm can support activity in the evening and at weekends to complement the food offer provided at the markets, at the existing café and within the small craft units currently under construction.

Food halls are growing in number and have transformed many market towns. They provide an informal form of dining that is popular with groups and with families, and provide a low cost way for local traders to test out a location without the risk of a long lease. We will investigate whether existing buildings provide an opportunity for such a use, either by occupying empty premises or making use of a building that is not open in the evening or weekends. Prominent buildings with adjacent outdoor space, such as The Workshed and Webb's House, could be particularly suitable.

Liskeard has relatively few areas where bars and restaurants can 'spill out' into the street, Fore Street being the key area where this happens. This reduces the visibility of such businesses but also means that Liskeard is failing to exploit the 'café culture' which has increased demand for outdoor eating and drinking.

It is important therefore that opportunities are maximised for eating and drinking in the main flat space that does exist adjacent to The Workshed. We will also seek to create more space for 'spill-out' activities across the town centre but particularly through the potential redesign of Barras Street, The Parade, Market Street and Bay Tree Hill.

We will also work to support 'pop-up' bars and restaurants across the town centre, particularly in former bank buildings or other premises which are less attractive to retailers. We know there is potential interest from occupiers, and we will encourage Cornwall Council to consider waiving business rates for such uses, as has been done in other towns.

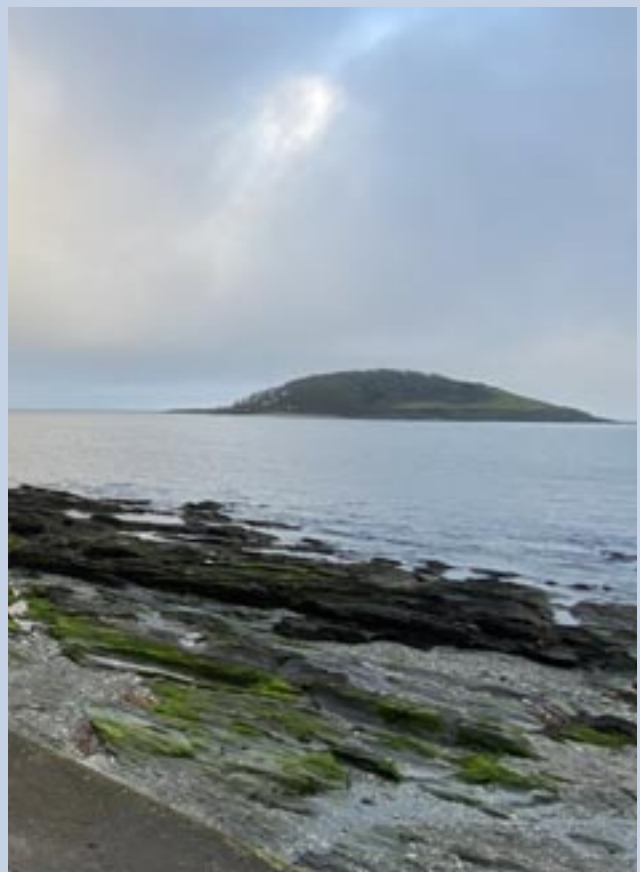


Tourism & Accommodation

The Neighbourhood Development Plan noted Liskeard's strategic location between Bodmin Moor and the Coast. There are projects underway to promote Liskeard as a distinctive and sustainable tourism location, factors which are particularly important to those visiting Cornwall. These projects will focus on walking and cycling, particularly the links to Looe, access by rail, the increasing interest in 'Dark Skies' and the close proximity to the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and Bodmin Moor.

We do however need to give people a stronger reason to choose Liskeard as the place to stay when they visit this area. Alongside more evening activity our priority must be to provide more visitor accommodation. The demand for hotel accommodation is falling, whilst visitors are increasingly looking for 'Airbnb' style accommodation that gives them more space, more flexibility and more variety of locally distinctive accommodation.

We will therefore continue to support any proposals for hotels or similar visitor accommodation, but will also work with Cornwall Council, local residents and businesses to understand 'how Liskeard can promote alternative forms of visitor accommodation within and on the edge of the town'. We will also work with Cornwall Council and other bodies to identify opportunities for funding support for the retention of suitable properties to visitor accommodation.



Markets & Events

Research across the country confirms, not surprisingly, that in market towns the quality of the market plays an important part in the sense of identity and social connection with the town. They bring life and bustle to market squares which are generally at the heart of market towns. The surveys show that markets bring locals and visitors into town centres for an experience they cannot get online, they are important in showcasing local businesses and giving them an opportunity to test the market for their products.

The best markets are events that involve the whole town, with music, community organisations and workshops side by side with local traders. They require extensive curation and dedicated resources to be successful. When fully opened, the Cattle Market will have huge potential as a flexible event space in the heart of Liskeard town centre.

We will work with Cornwall Council to secure such resources to support and coordinate the work being done by different organisations across Liskeard (including Liskerrett Community Centre, Real Ideas Organisation and others) to bring high quality traders to our markets, and to promote them as events for the whole community. We will particularly look to bring traders who showcase the strength of our surrounding agricultural community.

We will also work with Cornwall Council on the possible redesign of Barras Street / The Parade to identify potential opportunities for more prominent spaces for smaller scale events and to promote activities within the Museum, The Library, Stuart House and the Guildhall.



Parks & Green Spaces

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) included a number of projects to improve Liskeard's green spaces. Improvements have been made to Castle Park and consultation has recently been undertaken on designs for Rapson's Skate Park.

Outdoor spaces have become even more important post the Covid pandemic. Parks are destinations in their own right and are reasons for visiting town centres. As well as enhancing these spaces the wayfinding strategy needs to make sure people are aware of them, and how to find them.

A priority will be to enhance the arrival into Westbourne Gardens and to signal the presence of this important green space to visitors using the adjacent car park. We will work with Wildanet to explore how their green space to the rear of their building can be designed to help promote the presence of the gardens and create a more interesting edge to the car park.

We are continuing to enhance allotment provision and work with Cornwall Council and local groups to create community orchards. We will push for these and other green space to be provided and well-designed within any new housing development.



Sports Pitches

Liskeard is fortunate to have a wide range of sports clubs, and for many of their activities to be coordinated by the Liskeard & District Sports Association (LDSA). The clubs and their facilities at Lux Park are a vital part of the town's community life and identity.

The delivery of new and improved sports pitches and associated facilities at Roundbury has been a long-standing objective for Liskeard. The site is to the north of the town adjacent to the B3254 (Pensilva/St Cleer road). It is included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and other documents and a feasibility study was undertaken in 2023. Delivery of Roundbury is now a matter of urgency and we will work with Cornwall Council and LDSA to prioritise securing the necessary land and to ensure that the funding needed to deliver the project remains allocated and dedicated to its delivery.

The proposals at Roundbury are in addition to retaining and improving existing facilities at Lux Park. The improved facilities could include new grass pitches, a 3G pitch, floodlights and an athletics track. We will also seek to ensure that any future housing allocations make full contributions towards the funding needed not just to deliver Roundbury but to invest in the existing facilities which will be retained at Lux Park.



Places to Live

Liskeard is a very sustainable location with good access to schools, hospitals, jobs and public transport. There is considerable interest from landowners and developers in increasing the amount of housing on the edge of the town. We will work with local residents and businesses to understand whether acceptable locations exist for additional housing growth, and whether more people living here can benefit the long-term economic vitality of Liskeard.

Towns are increasingly recognising that interesting homes and neighbourhoods, even at a small scale, help to change perceptions of them not just as a place to live but by raising their profile with businesses and visitors. It doesn't necessarily mean building high price housing, it just means recognising that people who choose to make their lives and careers in Cornwall are often looking for something different from the 'identikit' housing estates that are often provided.

We will work to attract new housing developers to Liskeard to create a more varied mix of housing. We will work with Cornwall Council and Treveth Homes to identify opportunities to access funding available to support feasibility studies into innovative schemes such as community-led housing and co-housing, particularly for younger and older age groups.

Most importantly we will encourage Cornwall Council to consider the growth of Liskeard in a comprehensive manner and not on a site-by-site basis. We will support a community-led approach where residents and businesses are fully involved in identifying if, how and where Liskeard should grow. Where housing growth does occur we will seek to ensure that there is a legal commitment to providing appropriate levels of jobs (in addition to those generated during construction), green space, playing fields and associated community infrastructure on site or elsewhere within the town.



Embracing Digital

The Towns Vitality Study data indicates that Broadband provision is a key strength for Liskeard and the presence of Wildanet, bringing broadband to the whole of Cornwall, is a major asset for us. This strength and the growth of 'working from anywhere' makes it much more feasible to promote Liskeard to new businesses.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/mrbdfktd/town-vitality-index-2024.pdf>

We need to use Wildanet's expertise to attract likeminded and innovative businesses to Liskeard, to make existing businesses more digitally literate and to promote the town. We need to strengthen Liskeard's digital presence, and will work to support independent

businesses in doing this so that visitors are aware of what the town has to offer. We will work with Cornwall Council to investigate how the digital profile of Liskeard can be enhanced, such as the Discover Launceston app. We will work with local organisations to make sure individuals are able to access the help and services they need that are increasingly online.

A key part of this will be to ensure that Liskeard presents a co-ordinated 'brand' to the outside world and that this 'brand' is conveyed consistently across the different websites, whether that be tourism, retail or community related.



Next Steps

This report is not the start or the end of the process for Liskeard. The town will not, and must not, stand still and the proposals within this document will change and evolve. The principles and values contained within this document should however remain constant, and should guide and inform future initiatives in Liskeard.

The final list of projects will need to be delivered by a wide variety of organisations and individuals. This delivery will however need to be coordinated to ensure the delivery of a comprehensive strategy for Liskeard that meets the agreed Vision.

All projects should therefore be regularly tested against their ability to address the key issues highlighted for Liskeard and to create the type of town centre that people have said they want Liskeard to become. We will work with stakeholders to identify an appropriate steering group which represents the breadth of skills and expertise available in Liskeard.

We will also provide regular opportunities for on-going community involvement to ensure that the people of Liskeard, including those who work here and those who use the town as a service centre from the large rural catchment area/hinterland continue to be engaged in shaping Liskeard's future and are informed about the progress of proposals in their town. We will make particular provision to engage with Liskeard School and its School Council to make sure that the voices of young people are heard.

Through this process we believe that Liskeard will become the town that we all want it to be: Successful, Distinctive, Inclusive and Optimistic.





THE LISKEARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

HemingwayDesign



LISKEARD COUNCIL
WORKING FOR YOU

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