

7. **TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE** – Taking account of the discussions at the current and previous budget and precept setting meetings going back several years, the Town Council included that issue in the “Strategic Direction, Capacity and Staff Review” carried out by the Local Council Consultancy (LCC). They have recommended the Town Council adopt a “5-year Precept Strategy”. The RFO has drafted a template. The Town Clerk has drafted a “Devolution Assessment template” looking at the initial transfer costs, the ongoing operating costs and the costs of new projects and improvements.

The draft “5-year Precept Strategy” and “Devolution Assessment Template” will be circulated for consideration as they are developed in the next week or two.

Fore Street Bollard Project – It should be noted that one of the specific questions on the “Community Highways Improvement Programme” grant application is whether the Town Council supports the application. Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey has indicated that he is intending to go ahead and submit the “Fore Street Bollard” project as an application for the “Community Highways Improvement Programme” by the 27th February 2026 deadline.

14. HM GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION ON THE PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPER COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENTS – To respond to the consultation and outline the Town Council’s experience in dealing with trying to adopt play areas, footpaths on green spaces, new and replacement grit-bins, allotments and sports pitches and associated toilet and changing facilities.

Background – At the 28th January 2026 meeting (Hazel Moorey in the MP’s Office) – confirming that nationally and locally there is concern from members of the public occupying houses on new estates regarding the timing of the completion of the infrastructure and the costs of the infrastructure through management organisations in addition to having to pay Council Tax the Government consultation runs until the 12th March response.

a. **Liskeard Town Council – Allotments** - issues on the non-provision of allotments – its own are fully occupied with a waiting list (10). The provision of allotments was a Neighbourhood Plan policy and aspiration. The Town Council has been working for several years in taking the allotments over and engaged consultant’s specialist in the Disabled Access and sensory gardens and our own solicitors’ etc.

b. **Liskeard Town Council - Eastern Avenue** – speculative purchase of a site by an out of area residential developer without the benefit of seeing the site (this has happened 4 times) two attempts to get planning consent for residential (2013 and 2015). A lot of local opposition as intended as green space. Purchased for £1. £23,000 spent on putting an adoptable footpath across the site to assist the public in accessing the town centre services and facilities.

c. **Liskeard Town Council – Play Area** – an initial approach and willingness to take on the freehold ownership of a play area with a piece of play equipment and be responsible not just for the ongoing maintenance, but also the eventual replacement of the play equipment (for a one off £10,000). This developed into an attempt to pass off a length of uncompleted, footpath extending

for some distance. This included a substantial Cornish hedge topped with trees which at several points had fallen into the footpath.

d. Liskeard Town Council – Sports Pitches and Associated Changing and Toilet Facilities – the impact of residential hope land valuations in delaying the purchase of land to enable the carrying out of ground works and the provision of sports pitches and the associated facilities.

e. Grit Bins – the provision of new grit bins on housing estates has been observed as effecting other Town and Parishes not just Liskeard.

NB* The Town Council has its own facilities and projects needing time and investment. With only 3 full time staff it is involved with some projects that would previously have been the delivered by the Local Authority.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Town Council respond to the Government consultation including the above examples.

15. GRIT BINS - REQUEST FOR JOINT PROVISION ON BOVEWAY DRIVE (FACILITIES COMMITTEE 20th January 2026. Minute 373 / 25 – “The Committee requested further information from the Town Clerk on the Town Council’s legal obligations in relation to the provision of new grit bins, as well as guidance on how to request that developers install grit bins on new estates and housing developments)” – To receive feedback from the experience of other Town and Parishes Councils. To receive any suggestions and observations from Cornwall Council Highways and Treveth Holdings.

Background – Following, discussion of the request by Treveth Holdings for the provision of new grit bins at Boveway Drive site at the 20th January 2026 Facilities Committee meeting. Cornwall Council Highways and Treveth Holdings have been contacted and updated with the situation including the points of concern:

- Town Councils - lack of any legal powers (Highways) to provide a new grit bin set up on a newly adopted estate.
- Town Councils – the cost and conditions of entering into a joint 2 way or 3 arrangement to set up grit bins on a newly adopted estate.
- Other Adopted Residential sites in which there has not been any grit bins provided. – the receipt of requests on an ongoing basis from other private sector developers and private sector management companies.

Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) Feedback: On 22nd January 2026, (without mentioning the site or the Social Housing provider) the experiences of other Town Councils and Parish Councils were sought on the provision of grit bins on newly adopted residential developments. None of the Town Council’s that had considered the issue had decided on carrying out the provision of the provision of such a facility. One did have a policy of encouraging the Housing Associations / Tenants Association to take on the provision of such a facility.

It should be noted that some Town Council's have taken on much more property under Devolution and by transfers from other organisations. Those Town Councils have a much more direct legal responsibility as property owners for whether they have grit bin coverage on their own land. At least one undertakes their purchasing direct from wholesalers to spread on their sites. Those also having vehicles and external works type staff.

Cost and Service Delivery Implications: – to try and better understand this the following questions were put forward:

- “Cornwall Council Highways – is there a template of an agreement with another Town Council or Parish Council – in which the costs and responsibilities are set out (I believe it would help if an organisation other than the Town Council was responsible for the service – as the Town Council does not have Highways Powers even if LTC pays for / or part pays for the service).
- Treveth Holdings – have you already encountered this before on another Social Housing site? Do you a template or agreement that might be looked at?
- Cornwall Council Highways – would you have any idea of the number of other adopted residential sites in Liskeard which might request inclusion at some point in the future.”

Feedback: at the time of writing, Treveth Holdings had responded that as this was their first “Social Housing” they had no template to supply to consider. So far, there had been no response from Cornwall Council Highways. It might be the item is deferred to a later meeting when there is something to report.

RECOMMENDATION: To report any feedback received and if not defer to later meeting.

16. SANTANDER – NOTIFICATION OF BRANCH CLOSURE – 20TH MAY 2026 – To sadly note the closure of the current branch which is the last bank in the town. To consider whether to approve investigating the possibility of locating a banking hub in the town.

Background – in the press reporting by BBC Spotlight (10th February 2026) of the closure of the Santander reference was made to the “Banking Hub” although, it was suggested that Liskeard might not qualify for one owing to other cash access possibilities not least through the Post Office.

RECOMMENDATION: That contact be made with Town Council's in those towns with Banking Hub's to discuss their views.

17. Cornwall Council – LI26/000481 Application for a Pavement Licence – Bean Café Shop, 6 Fore Street, Liskeard – (attached) – To consider the application to allow furniture (as detailed in the application) on the “highway” to be used for the consumption of food and non-alcoholic drink. (27th February 2026 – Cornwall Council deadline for the receipt of comments.)

Background – owing to the short turn around on this item, the Town Council is asked to consider this item. A similar application from the T Garden in Fore Street was recommended for approval a few months ago, and submitted comments (see attached), which would be relevant to this application.

- The licence should be limited to the hours of 10:30 to 16:00 each day only when the street is pedestrianised. The applicant has requested an earlier start of 09:30 but this may cause conflict with delivery vehicles, etc.
- Placement of furniture should be limited to the area indicated on the application immediately abutting the premises and not creep further out into the street, as traders on the other side of the street may also have items placed outside.
- The smoke-free seating condition should be proactively enforced by the licence holder.

Recommendation: That the Pavement Licence application for Bean Café Shop, 6 Fore Street, Liskeard is supported.