

## **Item 7. - Facilities Report (15.09.2026)**

**Allotments** – The Mayor Cllr. David Braithwaite, Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Sylvia Berry and Honoured Burgesses Owen and Jean Hoskin judged Pengover Allotments on 20 July 2026. The award for Best Newcomer has been awarded to Kim Turner and the Best Overall Plot to John Ede. Zoe Harris attended the Pengover Allotment Association's BBQ on behalf of the Mayor on 23 August 2026.

We are currently reviewing the allotment rent and water charges. The allotment plots are different sizes, and the Council does not always have accurate records of the size of each plot. Recent drone footage gives us the opportunity to map the site and measure each plot more accurately.

As part of the review, we are looking at:

- moving to a standard allotment year of 1 April to 31 March
- calculating rent based on the actual size of each plot
- reviewing the current water charge and how this is shared between tenants
- introducing a simple pro-rata charge for new tenants who take on a plot part-way through the year

The aim is to have a clear and fair system where tenants pay according to the size of the plot they use. It will also make the allotment records and annual billing easier to manage.

No changes to the current charges are being made at this stage. A more detailed report will be brought to the Facilities Committee in November. This will set out the proposed new charges, including the rent and water charge for each plot, together with the proposed timescale for making any changes. .

**Benches (Item 8)** - Liskeard Town Council invited quotations from contractors for the repair and maintenance of benches that it owns and/or is responsible for maintaining. The project focuses on 13 benches identified as either unsafe or requiring repair following a recent condition survey undertaken by the Facilities Team. Two quotations were received, both of which exceeded the budgeted allowance of £2,000. It is therefore proposed that the works are phased, with the most urgent repairs undertaken immediately and a second phase of repairs scheduled for 2027–28.

**Westbourne Car Park Toilets** – There is still a significant safety concern with the operation of the toilets at Westbourne Car Park because of the build-up of silt at the entrance to the ladies toilet. As a short-term measure, sandbags can be used to help manage the water (the cost of this is £296.45 ex VAT). However, the Town Council needs to find a more permanent solution. The options include:

- Increasing the area leased from Cornwall Council so that the Town Council can carry out the necessary improvements
- Asking Cornwall Council to carry out the improvements
- Ending the current lease with Cornwall Council
- Having the gulley at the rear of the toilets cleared

A contractor has quoted around £500–£600 to clear the gulley, including removing the silt. However, the work would need to be repeated every few weeks to keep the drain working. This would not be financially viable for the Town Council as a long-term solution.

Given the safety concerns and the likelihood that the problem will get worse over the autumn and winter, the current approach is to consider temporarily closing the ladies' toilets during this period. The gents' and accessible toilets are not affected by the problem.

**Public Hall** - The internal repairs to the Emily Hobhouse Room were completed on 28 August. This work included the installation of a new damp-proof membrane, replastering and redecoration.

The new dais has already been out to good use at the Royal Naval Association (RNA) Freedom of the Town Parade on 23 August 2026 to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liskeard Branch of the RNA.

The Bins for Boys unit has been installed in the gents toilets at the Public Hall and the location registered with the Bins for Boys campaign. Further information on the Bins for Boys campaign is available at <https://www.lingendavies.co.uk/our-work/what-we-deliver/binsforboys/>.

Remedial steel fabrication works have recently been completed on a cross-stage structural steel beam in the main hall. The works were undertaken to strengthen the midpoint and end joints of the beam, bringing the structure into compliance with the required shear stress forces. The works were completed within one day by CE Metal Fabrications, with the design and structural sign-off undertaken by Martin Perry Associates, Structural Engineers.

New stage decking has been delivered and is already in use in preparation for Cornwall Musical Theatre's forthcoming performances of Matilda on 7 to 13 September.

The Council has also taken delivery of new fire regulation-compliant stage curtains and tabs, ensuring that the stage facilities continue to meet the required fire safety standards.

The Council is currently awaiting a response from South West Water regarding its funding application for the installation of a drinking station in the Public Hall. Further updates will be provided once a response has been received.

**Public Hall Events** – We have welcomed several new hirers to the Public Hall over the last 2-months including the Chi Marghas Day Opportunities (formerly Morley Tamblyn Lodge) dance show, safeguarding and first aid training, and NHS Children's Mental Health Support Group.

Pendean PATH Day was another new booking, supporting people with learning disabilities alongside their support workers, social workers and family members. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust also used the facilities for the first time to deliver Oliver McGowan training. These bookings continue to demonstrate the important role the Public Hall plays in supporting health, wellbeing, training and community services within the local area.

Liskeard Town Council also held a family film afternoon during the summer holidays, providing a free activity for local families. The event was a pilot to gauge local demand and gather valuable feedback, which

will help support a future funding application to the Theatres Trust. Liskeard Scouts kindly provided the projector, and the screen was provided by CMT&PA. The licence for the film, including the rights to advertise cost £150.

Cornwall Musical Theatre & Performing Arts (CMT&PA) have been rehearsing at the Public Hall for several months in preparation for their production of Matilda. This is one of the largest theatrical productions we have hosted at the Public Hall in recent years and made extensive use of the Main Hall and stage facilities – the production even included swings on stage!

Forthcoming events include Liskeard Traders Association Awards, Creative Looe's dance production of Onyon, Looe Youth Theatre and the annual Primestock Show. We will also be hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning on 30 September.

Financially, hall bookings continue to perform well. After only five months of the financial year, we have already achieved approximately 42% of our annual hall booking income budget. September has been a particularly strong month and, with bookings continuing to come in for the remainder of the year, we are in a good position to continue progressing towards our annual income target by the end of the financial year.

**Castle Park** – Work to alleviate the flooding at the Poldhu Road entrance of the park has been completed. and the section of damaged path has been re-dressed.

The post supporting the vehicle gate at the top of the park has been replaced.

Liskeard Town Council staff, work experience students and councillors helped with the volunteer gardening session held on 23 July 2026. The next volunteer gardening session is due to take place at 9.30am to 12.30pm on 17 September. For further information please contact Kelly at [volunteers@cormacltd.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@cormacltd.co.uk).

The Town Council had a stand at the Scouts Fun Day held on 15 August where we were able to talk to local people about the Town Council and more specifically the planned improvements for the park.

The park has hosted several events over the summer holidays including Healthy Cornwall, St Martins Church and Liskeard Baptist Church.

The Facilities Team are now undertaking all the routine and operational play park safety inspections.

**Thorn Park** – Park Yoga has continued every Sunday (the final date for this year is 13 September) and continues to be very well supported. The gate post at the bottom of Thorn Park has been replaced and the multi-play slide has been fixed. A replacement cherry tree will be planted over the autumn/winter to replace the one that was stolen over the summer.

**Guildhall** – The new autoregulator for the turret clock has been installed.

Dawson Steeplejacks cleared and inspected the downpipes and gutters on 12 August. The gutters were all found to be in good condition.

**Other Events** – The Facilities team supported the Liskeard Branch of the Royal Naval Association (RNA) Freedom of the Town Parade on 23 August 2026, and we are working closely with the Events & Comms Officer, Lucy Babcock, on arrangements for the annual Remembrance Parade on the 8 November and Liskeard Lights-Up on 28 November 2026.

**CCTV** – The new CCTV camera has been installed at Castle Park. The £11,000 project was made possible through a £5,500 grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, with the remaining funding provided by the Town Council. The camera is now fully operational and connected to the East Cornwall CCTV Control Room in Truro. The project has been widely supported by a range of local organisations, including the Friends of Castle Park, 1<sup>st</sup> Liskeard Scout Group, Liskeard Traders Association, Liskeard Town Forum and Cornwall Councillor Kevin Grey.

**Devolution** – The focus remains on the devolution of the Rapsons site to facilitate the new skatepark project. Betongpark has written to the Town Council to reaffirm its commitment to the project, highlighting the significant work already undertaken, including consultation, design development and stakeholder engagement. They have also noted that continued delays are likely to result in increased costs, reinforcing the importance of maintaining momentum to progress the project.

**Team Update** –Members of the team have successfully completed Manual Handling training.