

Item 8 - Facilities Report (21.07.2026)

Castle Park – work starts on the alleviate the flooding at the pedestrian entrance at the Poldhu Road entrance of the park week commencing 27 July. The contractors will be installing a French drain and re-dressing the path with aggregate.

The Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (CIL) application has been prepared for submission. The Town Council is looking for £80,000 with an additional £22,000 provided by the Town Council to support access improvements, inclusive play equipment and promoting community well-being.

The next volunteer gardening session is due to take place at 9.30am to 12.30pm on Thursday 21 July. The Town Council's Facilities team will be attendance at this session. For further information please contact Kelly at volunteers@cormacltd.co.uk.

Scouts, residents, councillors, and the Town Council's Facilities team came together for a community litter pick at Castle Park on Saturday 6 June as part of a campaign organised by Clean Cornwall and the Eden Project during National Volunteers Week. A total of eight bags of rubbish were collected which the Mayor, Councillor David Braithwaite, took to the tip at the end of the day.



The annual Scouts Fun Day takes place in Castle Park on 15 August 2026. The Town Council will be using the opportunity to have a stand and to consult with local people on improvements to the park.

Thorn Park – Sadly there has been some recent vandalism at Thorn Park and one of the commemorative cherry trees has been removed. This has been reported to the police and an appeal launched for information. The tree was one of several planted in February 2024 during a special community dedication ceremony in memory of the young people from our town who tragically lost their lives in 2022 and 2023. The family of the young person commemorated will be planting a new tree over the winter and the vandalised plaques will be replaced.

Town Clock – The historic Town Clock has undergone a significant upgrade with the installation of a new automatic winding mechanism, improving the reliability and long-term operation of the clock. The final phase of the project, the installation of a new regulator, is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

The Fountain – the project to restore the historic fountain and horse trough on the Parade is now underway. The condition report and measured building survey completed. The tender process for the restoration work is currently ongoing. The project will include careful cleaning, repairs and conservation work. The electrics in the Fountain will be overhauled to provide power to the Christmas tree and other events on the Parade.

Public Hall Repair & Redecoration – The essential repair and redecoration works are now nearing completion. Installation of the new external light and poster display cases is scheduled to take place over the next couple of weeks. TF Grills Ltd has delivered the project to a consistently high standard. The contractor has been professional throughout, with excellent workmanship and attention to detail.

The contractors will be undertaking some additional work to damp-proof, replaster and decorate the Emily Hobhouse Room. We will be taking this opportunity to install acoustic panels on the walls to improve sound quality.

Public Hall – Phase 2 Improvements – The stage curtains were assigned a high-risk rating in the most recent Fire Risk Assessment. Their large volume of fabric, located in close proximity to potential sources of ignition such as stage lighting, electrical equipment, and stage effects, significantly increases the fire risk. The fire resistance of the existing curtains cannot be verified, and they are estimated to be over 30 years old. Given their age and condition, it is not feasible to treat the curtains with a fire-retardant coating. Replacement of the curtains is therefore the recommended course of action – see separate report.

A new stage extension is also planned as part of the next round of hall improvements. Investing in a new stage extension will improve the flexibility and future use of the Public Hall. The current stage extension must be hired in, is not always available when needed, is old, heavy to move, and sometimes has missing parts. A permanent stage extension will reduce ongoing hire costs, make it easier to host a wider range of shows and events, and provide a long-term investment that will benefit the Hall for many years – see separate report.

Public Hall Events – Since the last Facilities Committee meeting, the Public Hall and associated facilities have continued to experience a high level of usage, hosting a wide variety of community, educational, commercial and private bookings across all rooms.

The venue has continued to support a number of regular hirers, including the monthly Liskeard Lions Charity Bingo evenings, which remain well attended and continue to be an important community fundraising event. Several educational and professional training bookings have also taken place, including

GCSE examinations organised by Cornwall Adult Education, ABRSM music examinations, Cornish language examinations, a number of First Aid courses and a Level 2 Security Training Course.

Community organisations have continued to make excellent use of the facilities throughout the reporting period. Our Lady & St Neot Church held their annual Summer Fête at the Public Hall, raising a significant amount of money for the church. St Cleer & Liskeard Junior Football Club also hosted their annual Junior Presentation Evening, celebrating the achievements of their young players.

It has been encouraging to welcome back Table Tennis sessions in the Emily Hobhouse Room, further increasing the range of regular activities taking place within the building. The venue also hosted a Bridge Club Competition, attracting participants from across the local area.

The Public Hall has continued to provide a venue for a diverse range of performances and cultural events. A memorial concert, organised in memory of a young local resident, was held in the Main Hall, bringing the community together in remembrance and celebration. More recently, Caradon Youth Theatre staged their production of *When the Whales Came*, which was well supported and showcased the talents of local young performers.

The annual Mayor Choosing ceremony was also successfully hosted at the Public Hall and was well attended, marking another important civic event within the Council calendar.

Overall, the continued diversity of bookings demonstrates the flexibility of the Public Hall and its importance as a valued community asset. Demand for the venue remains strong, with a healthy balance of community, educational, commercial and civic events contributing to consistently high occupancy levels and increasing community engagement.

Bins 4 Boys – 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/>

Dais - This proposal recommends buying a new modular dais platform to replace the narrow wooden box currently used for civic parades, ceremonies, and council events. The existing platform is too small and does not have a safety handrail. A new platform will provide a safer, wider, and more professional space for civic dignitaries and speakers. It can also be used in different layouts for other events, giving the Town Council a flexible, long-term solution – see separate report.

Devolution – The Town Council/Cornwall Council working party continues to meet monthly. The focus is on the devolution of the Rapsons site to facilitate the new skatepark project, the area of Castle Park around the war memorial (excluding the bungalow), Sungirt car park and woodland area. Councillors site visits took place on 3, 5 & 18 June. The Town Council also commissioned a tree survey of Sungirt Valley and the War Memorial. The next steps include a meeting on 20 July with specific focus on the Rapsons site.

Team Update – A new member of staff, Sarah joined the Facilities Team on 13 July as a cleaner. Members of the team have successfully completed the IOSH Managing Safely and RoSPA Play Park Inspection courses.