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## PRESS RELEASE

### Key milestone for St Ives Town Deal programme as funding released to first regeneration project

St Ives Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve will begin building a new environmentally sustainable facility at the end of May thanks to funding from the St Ives Town Deal Fund.

It is the first of nine capital projects across the town to start construction. The Community Orchard team received £329,000 from the Town Deal Fund after an initial £14,000 last year for preparatory work for a new community facility on Penbeagle Hill. A final payment of £16,000 will follow in July 2023.

St Ives is among 100 towns across the country successful in its bid for funding from the Government's Town Deal Fund. Following the review of the Town Investment Plan, the town was awarded £19.9 million to support the proposed regeneration plans.

**"This is great news - both for the St Ives Community Orchard and for the St Ives Town Deal programme"** said Gareth Jones, Vice Chairman of the St Ives Town Deal Board. **"Since receiving confirmation of the Government's initial funding payment last September, everyone has been working very hard to get the contracts signed and the funding released to the nine projects as quickly as possible.**

**"St Ives Community Orchard is the first project to have its funding released, and we look forward to the remaining projects receiving their funding in the coming months".**

Directors Phoebe Sampson and Elise Langley commented: **"We are thrilled to have received our Town Deal funding. We have been working on this exciting project for a long time and it is fantastic to see work about to begin to turn our vision into reality."**

Based in the beautiful 30-acre Community Orchard & Nature Reserve site overlooking the town, the new building will provide a vibrant community asset, delivering environmental education, workshops, skills training, nature-based training and community events to individuals, local groups and schools.

Activities will include daily workshops and training all year round on subjects such as permaculture, beekeeping, willow weaving, herbal remedies and cosmetics, natural dyes, brewing and grafting: all using materials grown and produced on site in an expanded community garden and orchard.



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The project will also create new jobs and provide opportunities for local self-employed trainers to share their knowledge and skills as well as a space for meetings, community activities and a repair cafe.

Connecting people with nature and their community to restore mental health and well-being and reduce isolation and loneliness.

You can find out more about the plans by visiting their website [www.stivesorchard.co.uk](http://www.stivesorchard.co.uk). There is an [Expression of interest form](#) for those interested in providing nature-based workshops at the community learning centre.

Or pop along to their 'World Bee Day with Squashbox puppet theatre' event happening 3pm- 6pm on 20th May where their plans will be on display.

The team appointed Paul Connell, a local architect / sculptor / rammed earth builder to draw up a design for the new building last year when the Government officially confirmed funding for the nine St Ives Town Deal projects.

After agreeing on an inspiring circular design following consultation with the local community, initial groundworks were completed by AB Groundworks earlier this year.

The green timber frame (supplied by Carbis Bay company Post & Beam Cornwall) will be erected by Penzance timber frame specialists Norsk Carpentry and Building Ltd, on a Ground Screw foundation (concrete free). The roof will be provided by Truro based company Marnick Roofing.

The Orchard build team will also be working with St Ives company Gekko Designs who specialise in the use of alternative building techniques and interiors.

**“We are very grateful to Cornwall Council and the St Ives Town Deal Board, and to the many, many supporters, volunteers and local suppliers who have helped us to reach this point”** said Phoebe and Elise.

The main construction is due to be completed by October 2023, with interior finishing then taking place with community and learning events showcasing sustainable building practices.

Nine projects have been approved to receive Town Deal Funding in St Ives. These include plans to create an integrated and low carbon transport system, support local business and jobs, and develop new skills and supply chains as well as provide new and transformed housing and community assets. Projects which have had their business case and feasibility assessment approved are now being contracted and in position to enter their delivery phase.



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**St. Ives  
Town Deal**

Part the Government's plan for Levelling Up the UK economy, the Town Deal Fund aims to regenerate the towns and boost the local economy across the regions.

Ends

## Notes to Editor

### Towns Fund – Town Deals

On 27 July 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Towns Fund would support an initial 101 places across England to develop Town Deal proposals, to drive economic regeneration and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth. See further details of the [announcement](#).

A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. It will set out a vision and strategy for the town, and what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision. [See the 101 places being supported to develop Town Deals](#).

Each of the 101 towns selected to work towards a Town Deal also received accelerated funding last year for investment in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places "build back better" in the wake of Covid-19. [View a list of accelerated funding by place](#) (PDF, 266 KB, 11 pages)

### St Ives Town Deal and Accelerated Town Fund

In June 2021, St Ives secured a Town Deal of up to £19.9 million following the successful submission of its Town Investment Plan for a range of regeneration projects.

In addition, each of the towns selected by the government to work towards a Town Deal were invited to apply for accelerated funding to invest in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places 'build back better' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. St Ives was allocated £500,000 through the Government's Accelerator Fund to kick start the delivery of projects in 2020.

For more information about St Ives Town Deal visit [www.stivestowndeal.org.uk](http://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk)

Cornwall is the only area invited by the Government to submit proposals for four of its towns: Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro. After conducting extensive public consultations, each Town Deal Board submitted their [Town Investment Plan](#) in collaboration with Cornwall Council. As a result, the Government announced in spring 2021, that Cornwall will receive up to £88.7 million from the Town Deal Fund.

In September 2022, after review of the programmes' business cases, the Government released an initial £18 million of Town Deal funding to Cornwall Council. This enabled the Council to submit the first series of contracts to ratified projects and the start of the Town Deals programme delivery in November 2022.