



## St Ives Town Deal Newsletter July 2024

Our programme is now firmly in delivery mode, with construction of the majority of our projects well underway. Eight of our nine Town Deal projects have signed their contracts and received their first tranche of funding, with the final project signing due to take place within the next few weeks.

The CORE, the new learning centre at St Ives Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve, was officially opened in April. This amazing building was the first of our Town Deal funded projects to be completed and opened to the public, marking a very exciting milestone for our Town Deal programme.

Around 42 local businesses and organisations awarded Enterprise Grants have now received their funding and work is continuing on the St Ives Theatre, Guildhall, Leach Pottery and Old Vicarage Flats projects.

Two new Youth Engagement Project officers have been appointed using Town Deal funding, Laura Peach and Rosana Cox will be working with all the Town Deal projects to ensure young people are more involved and benefit from the programme.

Work is also continuing on LiveWest's retrofit housing programme. The planning application for the St Ives Rugby Club project was submitted to Cornwall Council at the beginning of July. The Low Carbon Transport Strategy team are meeting with local resident groups and businesses to help develop the projects within the Strategy, with an exhibition to update the local community due to be held in the town's library in September.

Updates on these and all our other projects are available below.

### UPGRADING AND PROVIDING NEW COMMUNITY SPACES

#### St Ives Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve

The official opening of The CORE, the new learning centre at St Ives Community Orchard and Wildlife Reserve, took place on Friday, 19 April. The Community Orchard team received £345,538 from the Town Deal Fund to construct the environmentally sustainable facility on Penbeagle Hill.

Based in the beautiful 30-acre site overlooking the town, the building provides a vibrant community asset which will deliver environmental education, workshops, skills training, nature-based training and community events to individuals, local groups and schools. It 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.

The team are planning some family fun workshops over the summer holidays so keep an eye on their social media pages and website for details.

Read more about the Community Orchard project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-community-orchard/>



## St Ives Town Council Guildhall Renewal

Since February, the Guildhall project has focused on preparing for the construction phase, including completing the second stage of the two-stage tender process. Following some delays in finalising elements of the design and costs, work is currently taking place to revise the programme with the aim of breaking ground on site in the Autumn.

The project team have also completed the recruitment of the Town Deal funded Youth Engagement and Project Officer role. Laura Peach and Rosana Cox began work in June and have already made contact with the Town Deal Projects to discuss how they can support them to engage young people with each project.

Read more about the Guildhall project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-guildhall/>



## St Ives Theatre Regeneration

Following the completion of work on the roof and façade of the converted Wesleyan chapel, work is now well underway on the second phase which involves refurbishing the interior of the building. The transformed building is due to re-open with a brand-new production in Easter 2025. The project team has been able to retain a lot of the original features, including the granite walls, some of the wooden panelling and the iconic chandeliers, at the same time as bringing the building up to date with modern equipment and technology to create a more vibrant space.

In July the project hosted a visit from representatives of the St Ives Town Deal Board and Cornwall Council to see the progress which is being made.

Read more about the St Ives Theatre project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-theatre-regeneration/>

You can watch a short film about the visit here : <https://youtu.be/eMP3Te4HVdY>





## IMPROVING OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR A GREENER TOWN CENTRE

### Low Carbon Transport Strategy

Work is continuing to develop this key Strategy for the town and surrounding areas. In May the Board supported a recommendation from Cornwall Council's Highways Authority to remove the use of automatic bollards from the plans to create the Low Traffic Environment.. Work on implementing the LTE is currently due to begin in Autumn 2025 and the project team will be working closely with local residents and businesses over the next few months to identify alternative methods of achieving the desired outcome.

The Board have also supported plans to install permanent traffic cameras throughout the town to provide information and robust live data on the levels and types of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists entering the town centre, and a Variable Message Sign on the A30.

Discussions are continuing with the local community about all the proposals in the Strategy and any supporting mitigation measures required. An update exhibition to provide the latest information about the proposals will be held at the town's library between 2pm and 7pm on 11 September.

Read more about the Transport Strategy project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/low-carbon-transport/>



## SUPPORTING NEW SKILLS, JOBS AND BUSINESS

### **St Ives Enterprise Grant Scheme**

The scheme has now been running for 18 months and to date 42 projects have been contracted with a total grant value of £876,100. Projects range from small grants to purchase equipment to larger capital build expansions. A full list of the approved projects can be found on the St Ives Town Deal website.

These 42 projects in total will deliver:

- 1,151 m2 of building improvements bringing back to use redundant or underutilised spaces.
- 37 new full time equivalent jobs created.
- 15 full time equivalent jobs safeguarded.

A handful of projects are still in appraisal / decision making stages. Looking to the future a small third round will be opening later this year; however, it will be limited in scope and budget and we anticipate a competitive application process. Please keep an eye out on local communication channels and at [www.stivestowndeal.org.uk](http://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk) for updates.

Read more about the Enterprise Grants scheme on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/delegated-fund-for-renewal/>

### **Leach Pottery and Digital Trail**

Following the demolition of the former Beagle Cross cottage and kiln sheds in May, foundations are now being laid for the new building to house the new Learning and Production Centre which will enable more classes and workshops to be provided and increase pottery production.

In July Cornwall Council Leader and St Ives Councillor Linda Taylor, portfolio holder for the economy Louis Gardner and the newly elected Chair of St Ives Town Deal Board Andrew Baragwanath visited the Pottery to see the progress which is being made to deliver this exciting and ambitious project.

Read more about the Leach Pottery project on the Town Deal website :  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/leach-pottery-and-st-ives-digital-trail/>

You can watch a short film about the visit [here](#)



## BUILDING NEW AND TRANSFORMED HOUSING

### Old Vicarage Flats Affordable Housing

Following several months of behind-the-scenes activity, Old Vicarage Flats has seen more visible work over the last few weeks. National Grid's work was postponed when unknown pipework was exposed to the front of the property, resulting in minor re-designs to ensure a combined, central, below-ground installation in the coming weeks.

In the meantime the team welcomed Kensa Engineering Ground Source heating design team to the site. The project is committed to using renewable energy and the aim of the visit was to plan exploration bore holes prior to installing the intended ground source heat pump system ( team shown with Chairman Matt Hayter in one of the ground floor rooms ) . In common with many other community groups, engaging with Net Zero targets for the future has brought some challenges. However, thanks to the availability of new, smaller drilling equipment, the drill points can now be positioned in the rear garden, rather than through the front car parking space.

Read more about the Old Vicarage Flats project on the Town Deal website;  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/old-vicarage-flats/>



### St Ives LiveWest Low Carbon Retrofit

In 2024 LiveWest continue to plan and undertake energy improvement works in St. Ives.

The current phase of works seeks to continue investment into the town by capitalising on previous investment and making further fabric property improvements and by the installation

of new technologies such as solar panels. Survey work is underway to scope out what upgrades each property will require to improve thermal comfort.

Read more about the LiveWest project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-livewest/>



## Rugby Club and Housing

A planning application for the project has been formally submitted to Cornwall Council. A decision is currently expected to be made in Autumn 2024 following a full consultation and publicity process involving the public, expert consultees and many other stakeholders.

This is a key milestone in the development and delivery of this exciting and ambitious scheme to provide much needed local housing and extra care facilities in St Ives, as well as delivering new high-quality sports facilities for the local community.

If approved the plans will see the new sports facility remaining on the same site but relocated further north in the position of the existing grandstand. This will then, in turn, free up the space for the new affordable housing and extra care accommodation in respond to identified local need.

Read more about the Rugby Club project on the Town Deal website:  
<https://www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/rugby-club-scheme/>



## Next steps

With many of our projects reaching key milestones during the next few months, 2024 looks set to be a very exciting year for our Town Deal programme.

Delivering these ambitious projects will revitalise our town, improving life for residents and creating sustainable communities now and into the future.

We look forward to continuing to work with partners, project leads, businesses and the local community to ensure that our programme is completed by the Government's Town Deal funding deadline of March 2026.

## **About the St Ives Town Deal**

In June 2021, St Ives secured a Town Deal of up to £19.9 million from the UK Government. Nine regeneration projects have been approved to receive funding from the Town Deal following the successful submission of the [Town Investment Plan](#).

View our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) to find out more about the Town Deal Fund in St Ives.

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